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ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
S/P 1	O/FSI 1	SY 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 4	CIA 20	NAVY 5
OSD 34	USIA	NSA 3
NSC 6	PASS 2	

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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HANDLING INDICATOR

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TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: GUATEMALA (2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM
REVIEWED BY ... DATE: OCT 1971
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIRECTOR OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
MAR 19 1969

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: March 13, 1969

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Chart of Incidents, February 1969

REF :

Summary

Although the level of politically motivated violence remained at a low level for yet another month, reports reaching the Embassy claimed that guerrillas had appeared in Zacapa, Izabal and San Marcos. Hard proof of their presence is still lacking, however. Terrorist urban operations included one sophisticated bombing and a smoothly organized robbery, as well as several machine-gun killings. The background rate of violence still was substantial; throughout the country groups of armed bandits conducted a number of attacks. Security forces reported some successes in rounding up members of these bands, but they captured no important guerrillas during the period. The unintentional killing of a Landivar University student aroused a wave of outrage against the Mobile Military Police, but President Mendez quickly calmed the squall. [redacted] the Supreme Court agreed with the judge responsible for the case of Ambassador Mein's assassination in refusing to accept police charges that Rodolfo GARCIA Díaz was involved in the Ambassador's murder. Security and military forces accepted quietly a number of command reshufflings following in the wake of General CHINCHILLA's resignation as Minister of Defense.

1. The number of incidents probably related to politically motivated subversive activity, as taken principally from newspaper accounts, tended toward the lower limits of the year-long "normal" rate, i.e., between 20 and 50 per month. According to our criteria this month's 26 events include both confirmed guerrilla activity and incidents suspiciously similar to time-tested guerrilla techniques. Guatemala City led the rest of the country as it normally has in the past year.

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2. As we reported last month, MR-13 leader Marco Antonio YON Sosa allegedly severed his connection with the FAR. The February 15 issue of the clandestine FAR publication GUERRILLERO tends to confirm this. It contains a long historical resume of the MR-13/FAR alliance, highly critical of Yon and his alleged inability to coordinate and lead the guerrilla movement. Signed by four FAR leaders, the GUERRILLERO article contends that Yon took the coward's way out and resigned from the FAR leadership. Since that time, a number of different sources have reported that guerrillas have again been observed in different parts of the country. A Mission officer heard from several sources in the area that Yon and a small band had been seen in the hills south of Morales, Department of Izabal--an area that Yon used to haunt in past years. Another Mission officer reported that military authorities at the Zacapa base believe that guerrillas are once again roaming the Sierra de las Minas. Army patrols have been increased, but have as yet seen no subversives. On February 16, five machine-gun-armed men burst into a dance at Las Quebradas near Morales and abducted a comisionado militar and an alcalde auxiliar. Although security forces claim to have arrested one member of the group after an intensive search, no trace of the kidnapped men has been reported, nor is there any hard evidence to show that Yon's guerrillas were responsible for the kidnap. In fact, positive confirmation of the alleged presence of guerrillas in the Zacapa-Izabal area has yet to appear.

3. Still other reports indicate that a number of Cuban-trained guerrillas may have infiltrated into the westerly Department of San Marcos, on the Mexican border. This group may be directed by Cesar MONTES, long absent from Guatemala and believed to have been with the group in Cuba [redacted] This, as well as the above information is fragmentary and unconfirmed; if substantiated, it would appear that the guerrillas are once again seeking rural safehavens.

4. Guatemala City experienced several examples of urban terrorism. In separate incidents two men were killed under suspicious circumstances in the La Florida slum just outside City limits and two teenaged youths in Zone 12 were wounded by a burst of machine-gun fire from a passing car. The Claymore mine bombing that took the life of a taxi driver in Zone 13 provided the most sophisticated sample of terrorist capability in some time. The victim's moving vehicle caught the full pattern of the mine, electrically detonated from some fifty yards away. [redacted] And at the end of the month four men and a woman robbed a supermarket in Guatemala City, taking $5,000. As they departed, the group told employees not to worry; they were from the FAR. [redacted]

5. The continuing presence of more-or-less organized criminal bands complicates the internal security scene. During the month police reported: a) capturing a

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"well known delinquent" who had stolen a number of military uniforms in November 1967; b) that in San Marcos a dozen machine-gun-armed men jumped two cashiers carrying a $5,000 payroll just as they landed at a small grass field located on a finca; c) and that in Chiantla, near Huehuetenango a dozen well armed men attacked a sub-chief of police and his assistant (they were assumed to be contrabandists). The press claims that two other groups, the "White Caps" and "Painted Faces" bands, were reported "roaming freely" in other areas of the country.

6. Mobile Military Police guarding the official Presidential finca near Escuintla killed a university student and wounded his beauty queen bride of two months on February 18. Late at night while returning to Guatemala, the youth apparently drove off the main highway down the secluded secondary road leading to the finca. He was returning after a brief stop when, according to the official story, the guards challenged him. When he did not heed the warning, they opened fire. The killing aroused Landivar students and faculty, but conciliatory statements by the Army and finally by the President himself seemed to placate the university community.

7. The Supreme Court declared its agreement with the judge responsible for hearing the Ambassador Mein assassination case after he had refused to accept the charges of complicity in the slaying that the police had placed against Rodolfo Herminio de Jesus GARCIA Diaz, aka "El Cabezon" (see last month's report for details of his capture--A-35). Garcia reportedly had admitted to police that he had known of the plan to kill the Ambassador and our information linked him directly with the attack. It is probable, however, that the evidence would not have stood up in the local system (nor, for that matter, in the United States). Garcia is still charged with various other offenses--false identification papers, carrying arms, and crimes against democratic institutions--which should at least keep him "on ice" for awhile.

8. The resignation of General Rolando CHINCHILLA Aguilar as Minister of Defense on February 19 gave rise to a number of shifts among military commands. According to our reports these changes have been accepted with equanimity by the vast number of military officers. No significant changes in the conduct of internal security operations are foreseen.

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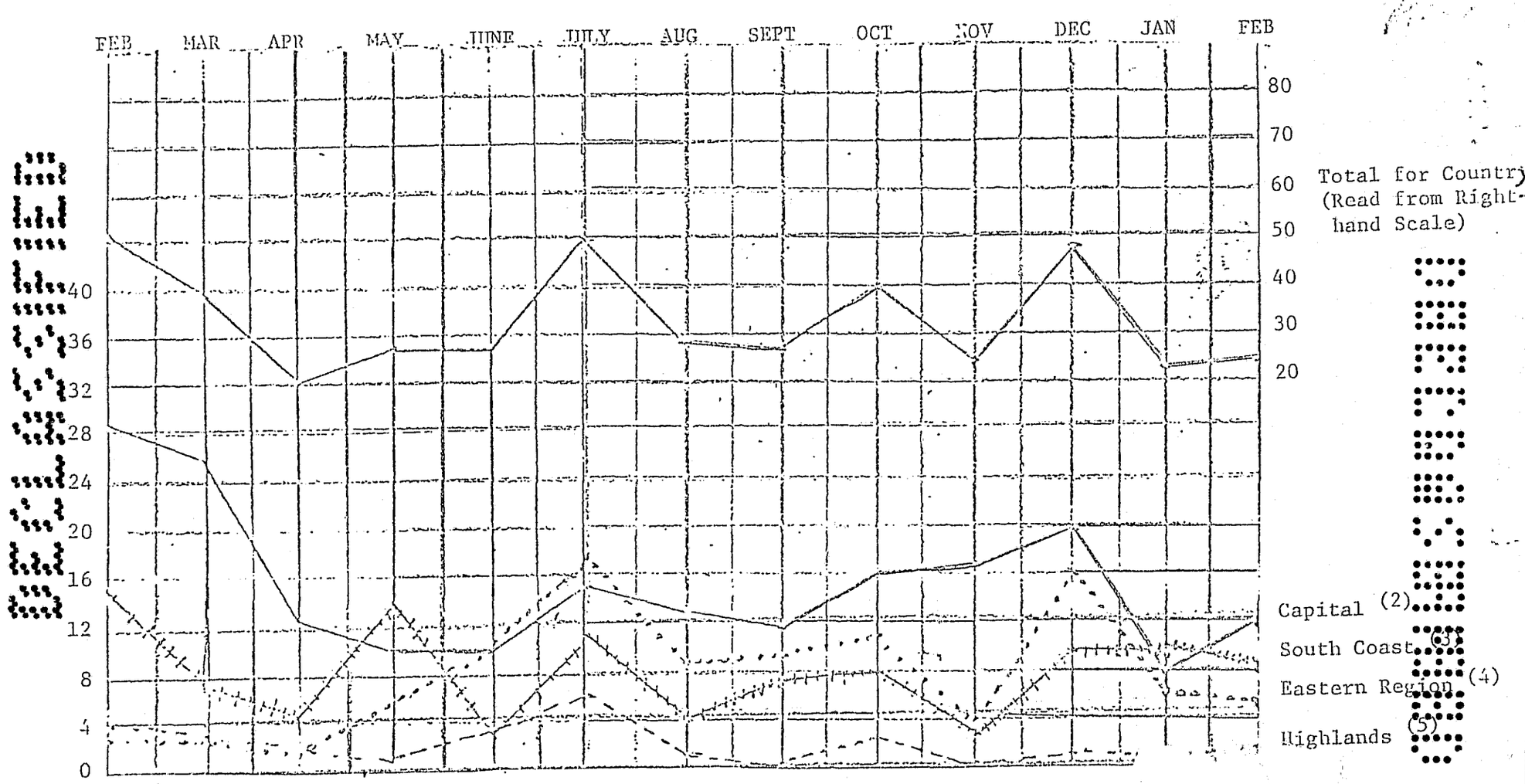
FROM GUATEMALA

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
FEBRUARY 1968 - FEBRUARY 1969



1. For purposes of this graph both acts of violence, such as shootings, bombings, etc., a... ...natedbodies found are counted as incidents.
2. Capital Area includes Departments: Sacatepequez, Guatemala.
3. South Coast includes Departments: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, E... ...a Rosa.
4. Eastern Region includes Departments: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal
5. Highlands includes Departments: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Alta Verapaz, Solola.

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